

**SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



MINUTES

January 5, 2021

Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm



CORE VALUES

We Believe:

- * That all children can learn.
- * In educating the whole child so he/she can meet the District's Standards.
- * In focusing on student achievement.
- * In providing a comprehensive and enriched curriculum for all students reflecting the needs and available resources of the community.
- * That the combined commitment of the Board of Education, staff, families, students, and community is the key to educational success.

MISSION STATEMENT

Preparing successful contributing citizens of the world through school, family and community partnerships, while addressing the diverse needs of all students.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the South Colonie Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Ms. Gigliello at 7:07 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Brian Casey	Colleen Gizzi	David Kiehle
Stephanie Cogan	Neil Johanning	James T. Ryan
Rose Gigliello	Michael Keane	Edward Sim

Also Present:

David Perry, Superintendent of Schools
 Tim Backus, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
 Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services & Strategic Planning
 Christopher Robilotti, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Safe Schools
 Amber Flanders, District Clerk

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Board President, Ms. Gigliello led the pledge to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Gizzi, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020 be approved.

9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain **Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

4. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keane wanted to thank Mr. Guardino, the Champ Club and the District on behalf of the all of the bowling parents for their support in getting the bowling matches livestreamed for the home matches. Mr. Keane also wanted to give thanks to the music program for all of the fantastic performances that were put together, everything was fantastic to hear and teachers went above and beyond to make it happen. The singalong was fantastic and a big thanks to Mrs. Doran, Mr. Ryan and Ms. McCarthy for their efforts and for going above and beyond! Mr. Keane inquired as to what the attendance was like during the recent snowstorm when the District went remote instead of having snow days.

He also spoke about the robo-call that went out regarding the snow day and stated that he feels we need to be sensitive to how we word these things, as he received messages from folks who felt that the message was condescending. Dr. Perry stated that the message was not meant to be condescending at all. The District was prepared in advance because we knew there was potential for a storm. Because we had the capability of going remote, we felt it was in our best

interest to have a virtual day. Dr. Perry wanted the kids to understand that part of the educational day could also be getting outside and making snowmen and telling stories about the holidays and he feels our teachers did a great job with that. He hopes that students had a positive experience that day. Many other Districts also chose to go virtual because they could and other Districts were not prepared to do so and called for a traditional snow day. The cleanup effort caused the District to hold a second virtual day. We were fortunate to have had the ability to use the two days for instruction and we still have two snow days available. The District certainly recognizes there will be a need for snow days. There is a long time between January and April and Dr. Perry anticipates needing the two days that we have available to us. It was not his intent to upset people. Dr. Perry would also like to thank the music teachers who went above and beyond. On behalf of the Board and the Administrators, we are very proud of the efforts of the kids and our staff in putting the concerts on, they were very well done and very entertaining.

Ms. Cogan spoke in regards to the snow day. She said we are lucky that we can do everything virtually. But she wanted everyone to remember that just because we can do something does not mean that we should.

Mr. Johanning spoke about Ms. Doran and the recent power outage during the sing along. He stated that the next week she did another sing along, which was also great. He wanted to thank her for that.

Dr. Perry wanted to give an update on COVID-19 and the reopening. He stated that over the weekend they had met with the Regional representatives after Albany County Executive, Dan McCoy gave his recommendations about the reopening of schools. They met with Dr. Whalen, Deputy Director Lynch and the Regional Superintendents in the area to discuss the regional data and concerns about reopening. It is a very difficult decision and they looked at both the transmission rates locally in the schools as well as the spike in the region. The spike in the region was expected but ultimately they felt that the transmission rate in schools is low and remains low. We do believe the best place for the kids is in school on a regular basis. The spikes have occurred after all of the major holidays. The forecast shows we are in a very difficult time over the next few weeks and we do anticipate that the numbers will eventually subside as we get into the end of January. We ask that our parents understand that they still have the ultimate decision as to whether or not they send their child to school. We are going to try to remain open provided that the Governor allows us to and as long as we have the appropriate staffing. We ask our families to continue to be vigilant in attesting to the COVID protocols. If at all doubtful, please remain home from school or work. Parents do have the ability to keep their kids home. But unfortunately we do not have the ability to put everyone into the Virtual Academy for short periods. If you chose to keep your child home from in-person instruction, we will do our best to provide resources and support. We will continue to monitor on a daily basis and this will be a day by day decision making process. Thank you to all of our staff who made the first two days back successful.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Johanning wanted to make a motion to add two parent members to the Safe Schools Committee effective 2/1/21. The two parents should have children in the schools and represent at least two different levels (P-4, 5-8, and 9-12). The parents should not be employees of the school district and should not be another designated representative (BOE, police, fire, etc.).

Mr. Keane wanted to second the motion. Mr. Kiehle wanted to know how these parents would be recruited and selected. Mr. Johanning stated that this would be up the committee. In the past we had reached out to the PTA Councils and the Booster Clubs for representation. Mr. Casey asked Dr. Perry how many that would put on the committee if we had two additional people. Dr. Perry stated that there are well over 20 on the standing committee and when we had the reopening we were upwards of 50. Having so many is more of a challenge in person but easier when we are in the virtual world. Mr. Casey asked Mr. Johanning why we need more people on the committee. Mr. Johanning feels we need two parents to bring only the parent perspective. Mr. Keane spoke up and feels that by doing this, we would avoid a conflict of interest and it is also an opportunity to build and recruit. Mr. Casey requested a copy of this proposal so the Board could take a look before voting, as this was the first time hearing about it. Mr. Johanning emailed this to the Board members. Ms. Gizzi brought up the fact that if you have not attended a Safe Schools meeting, you would have no way of knowing what is being discussed during these meetings. She suggested that Dr. Perry give some kind of a recap as to what was addressed during these meetings over the past year and a half along with Neil's proposal so that the Board can get together and discuss before voting. Dr. Perry will send out information to the Board about the committee charge, the current members of the committee and the committee goals. Mr. Robilotti is in charge of this committee. Ms. Gignello suggested tabling this to the next meeting so that everyone has a chance to look the information over. Mr. Kiehle agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehle and seconded by Ms. Gizzi, that the above stated motion made by Mr. Johanning to add two parent members to the Safe Schools Committee effective 2/1/21, be tabled until the January 19, 2021 meeting.

7 Yes 2 No 0 Abstain

Vote Carried: 7-2-0

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Requests to Speak:

1. Elizabeth Stone inquired when testing would begin in schools. Dr. Perry stated that we are prepared and have gone through the training and have met the minimum requirements with Albany County to be a limited lab partner. We are waiting on the State to either designate Albany County as a designated cluster zone or to give approval to do the testing. We are not allowed to do the rapid testing that we had received from New York State without that approval.
2. Renee Parisi inquired if there was a way to allow the K-6 kids that are home on quarantine for 10-14 days to join their core classes remotely. Dr. Perry stated that it is very difficult at the K-6 level to be in two different platforms with very young students. We had made the decision to create the Virtual Academy and gave that option to our families. If an in-person child is quarantined, the teacher is working with the family to provide educational support, as they would during

a short term illness. We do not have the capability to be able to allow for the hybrid approach at the K-6 level.

3. Kelly Pekrol inquired as to why the District has told teachers at certain grade levels not to teach Science or Social Studies. Dr. Perry stated that we are not removing Science and Social Studies and asked Mr. Backus to elaborate. Mr. Backus stated that there has been a concentration on this, as we started the year both virtually and in-person and trying to make up for last year and making sure students are where we want them to be. We have emphasized, particularly in Grades 5-6, of integrating Social Studies and Science into ELA and Math. The teacher have done a nice job.
4. Michael Goode inquired if there has been any reconsideration in the past 48 hours to the stance of not going fully virtual, knowing the highly contagious strain in in our backyard of Saratoga County. Dr. Perry stated that we are waiting on a mandate from the State to go virtual. Dr. Perry stated that we do understand the concerns out there and will continue to monitor on a daily basis.
5. Emily Purvis thanked the faculty and staff for all of their hard work. She feels the Virtual Academy are seeing the teachers less and feels that every 6th day of asynchronous learning so that teachers can plan seems like a lot. Dr. Perry stated we have provided on a 6 day rotation a half day of asynchronous learning to provide our Virtual Academy teachers some additional collaboration. They are using this time for some individual instruction. The teaching assistants are available on those days for small group instruction for kids. We are finding that the Virtual Academy teachers are working in a brand new environment and the time that they were spending during the day and also on nights and weekends was becoming problematic. They were not able to meet the needs that they felt were necessary to provide the best level of instruction. We will consider to monitor this and ask that parents provide feedback to the Virtual Academy principals.
6. Emily Purvis asked why so many phone calls are being made inviting some students back to in-person instruction early. She asked if it would be better to have them remain in the Virtual Academy instead of adding potential exposure to the school. Dr. Perry stated that we did do a survey in October and November requesting that families that wanted to return to in-person for the second semester fill out the form and notify us. We had over 250 families that expressed interest so during the month of December our principals worked to determine if those families still had that interest.

7. Rebecca Montijo thanked everyone to help keep schools open during this time. She asked that we share the medical data that the District reviewed in order to determine that it was safe to return to classrooms. Dr. Perry stated that we did meet with Dr. Whalen on Saturday regionally with all of the area Superintendents and we do understand that Albany County Executive McCoy has suggested that the District's go fully remote. However, it is just a suggestion and we took that under advisement. When talking to Dr. Whalen, she was non-committal to make a recommendation on either direction. What she presented was facts and this was national level data. There is not a lot of local data but we looked at the transmission rates nationally, we looked at the transmission rates within South Colonie and we looked at the transmission rates regionally. The regional rates are much higher than the transmission rates in schools. The percentage of positive cases coming out of schools, such as South Colonie, is much lower.

8. Beth Panucci asked when testing would begin. She also asked if schools would be forced to close if consent is not given by parents or staff. Dr. Perry had answered the information about testing already earlier in the meeting. He also stated that we do have enough staff and students who have consented to meet the 20 or 30% testing requirement. We would like a larger population to get a better represented sample. We will continue to message out to try to increase our numbers. We will not exclude people who did not consent. It is strictly a metric to determine whether or not schools are below the regional average.

9. Chrissy Goode who expressed her concerns about the asynchronous days for the Virtual Academy. Dr. Perry will ask Virtual Academy principals Greg Bearup and Jen Wells to follow up with the Virtual Academy families to make them aware of the expectations. Although it seems like we have less time engaged with our students, we are actually maintaining if not exceeding the pacing guides in our curriculum in the elementary and middle schools.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

Board Committees have met since the last Board of Education meeting. Chairpersons will make recommendations to the full Board, and/or seek clarification on issues. Board members who are liaisons to District-wide committees will also report at this time.

A. Audit & Finance

Mr. Kiehle, Committee Chair, provided a report on the Audit & Finance Committee meeting that was held on December 15, 2020.

B. Facilities/Transportation

Mr. Casey and Mr. Ryan, Committee Co-Chairs, provided a report on the Facilities/Transportation Committee meeting that was held on December 17, 2020.

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND STUDY**A. Capital Project Update**

Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services & Strategic Planning, provided a Capital Project Update.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Status and 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Discussion

Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services & Strategic Planning, reviewed the current status of the 2020-2021 budget and discuss preliminary 2021-2022 budget development.

9. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following:

A. Committee on Special Education

Placements as indicated on the attached sheets.

B. In-Service Courses

Approval of in-service courses as per attached list. Interested staff may register for courses on PD Express.

C. Capital Construction – Change Orders

1. Approval of Approval of Change Order EC-04 in the amount of \$0 from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 summarizing Electrical Contract Allowance Usage at Lisha Kill Middle School. Total contract sum is unchanged at \$242,650.00. Lisha Kill Middle School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-002-0169.
2. Approval of Change Order EC-05 in the amount of (\$3,647.50) from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 to provide a credit for base bid electrical work completed via Allowance Authorization EC-AA-02 at Shaker Road Elementary School. Total contract sum is decreased from \$242,650.00 to \$239,002.50. Shaker Road Elementary School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-009-015.

3. Approval of Change Order EC-06 in the amount of (\$2,959.50) from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 to provide a credit for base bid electrical work completed via Allowance Authorization EC-AA-03 at Veeder Elementary School. Total contract sum is decreased from \$239,002.50 to \$236,043.00. Veeder Elementary School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-003-016.
4. Approval of Change Order EC-07 in the amount of \$1,508.00 from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 to remove existing light fixtures and conduits on MUG entry lobby roof to accommodate roof replacement work, install new light fixtures supplied by District on roof and provide electrical power and associated required materials at Colonie Central High School. Total contract sum is increased from \$236,043.00 to \$237,551.00. Colonie Central High School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-001-028.
5. Approval of Change Order EC-08 in the amount of \$822.00 from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 to provide electrical work on a Time and Material basis in order to maintain functioning life safety systems and for work of other contractors to proceed at Lisha Kill Middle School. Total contract sum is increased from \$237,551.00 to \$238,373.00. Lisha Kill Middle School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-002-016.
6. Approval of Change Order EC-09 in the amount of \$579.00 from J. McBain, Inc., 2742 Sixth Avenue, Troy, New York 12180 to provide electrical work on a Time and Material basis in order for roof work to proceed at Roessleville Elementary School. Total contract sum is increased from \$238,373.00 to \$238,952.00. Roessleville Elementary School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-017-013.
7. Approval of Change Order SC-01 in the amount of \$0 from DelSignore Blacktop Paving, Inc., 42 Brick Church Road, Troy, New York 12180 summarizing Sitework Contract Allowance Usage at Saddlewood Elementary School. Total contract sum is unchanged at \$444,090.00. Saddlewood Elementary School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-008-014.

D. Tax Refund

Approval of a 2020-2021 tax refund payable to Asenath & John Saglimbeni in the amount of \$296.78. The property is located at 1 Newport Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309 (Tax Map #17.2-1-95).

E. Claims Auditor Report – October 8, 2020 – December 31, 2020**F. Clerk & Treasurer Reports – November 2020****G. Budget Transfers**

Approval of 2020-2021 budget transfers as per the attached sheet.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Gizzi, that the above stated Reports and Recommendations, be approved.

9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain **Vote Carried: 9– 0 – 0**

10. PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTION (Page 11-13)

A motion was made by Mr. Casey and seconded by Mr. Sim, that the Instructional Personnel changes listed on the attached sheets dated January 5, 2021 be approved.

9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain **Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

11. PERSONNEL – SUPPORT (Pages 14)

A motion was made by Mr. Keane and seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the Support Personnel changes listed on the attached sheets dated January 5, 2021 be approved.

9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain **Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

- **January 12** Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **January 12** Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Executive Session Only
- **January 19** Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **January 25** Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **February 9** Academic Achievement Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **February 9** Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **March 2** Communications Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual Meeting
- **March 2** Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual Meeting

10. PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTION**A. Leave of Absence**

1. Name: Margaret Fitzgerald
Position: Teaching Assistant
Type: Personal Leave
Location: Lisha Kill Middle School
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021

B. Temporary Appointments

1. Name: Erin Luke
Address: 22 Maxwell Road, Latham, NY 12110
Type: Temporary (1.0)
Teaching Area: Elementary Education
Location: Forest Park Elementary School
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021
Salary: Salary Schedule II, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)
Education: B.S. from SUNY Brockport; M.S. from College of St. Rose
Certification: Initial in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)
2. Name: Christine Zeigler
Address: 12 Van Buren Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
Type: Temporary (1.0)
Tenure Area: Elementary Education
Location: Virtual Academy (LK)
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021
Salary: Schedule I, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)
Education: B.S. from SUNY Buffalo and M. S. from the College of St. Rose
Certification Status: Initial in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)
3. Name: Emily Stickel
Address: 38 Harris Avenue, Apt. 1, Albany, NY 12208
Type: Temporary (.60)
Tenure Area: Special Education
Location: Virtual Academy (VR/FP)
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021
Salary: Schedule I, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)
Education: B.A. from LeMoyne College
Certification Status: Initial in Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)

- 4. Name: Amy Hayes
Address: 3B Division Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801
Type: Temporary (1.0)
Tenure Area: Elementary Education
Location: Virtual Academy (LK)
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021
Salary: Schedule I, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)
Education: B.A. and M.S. from the College of St. Rose
Certification Status: Initial in Literacy (Grades 5-12)

- 5. Name: Christina Travis
Address: 608 Schooner Court, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Type: Temporary (1.0)
Tenure Area: Elementary Education
Location: Virtual Academy (RV)
Effective Date: January 30, 2021
Ending Date: June 30, 2021
Salary: Schedule I, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)
Education: B.S. from Russell Sage College; M.S. from Sage Graduate School
Certification Status: Permanent in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6

C. Substitute Teachers

Approve substitute teachers on the attached list for regular appointments.

D. Co-Curricular – 2020-21 School Year

Appoint the following previously approved positions at the approved rate of compensation:

Colonie Central High School

Intramurals:

Boys Basketball	Ken Dagostino
Boys Basketball	Sean Peer
Boys Basketball	Andrew Gentile
Boys Basketball	Ralph Tucker
Girls Basketball	Heather DiBiase
Girls Basketball	George Pearson
Competitive Cheerleading	Ann Grasso-Little
Competitive Cheerleading	Christina Boisvert
Boys Winter Track	Lisa Paparone
Girls Winter Track	LaVaughan Garland
Girls Winter Track	Mike Caccuitto
Girls Winter Track	Frank Myers

E. Interscholastics for Fall – 2020-21 School Year

Appoint the following previously approved position at the approved rate of compensation:

Colonie Central High School
Coach Boys Varsity Bowling

William Carl

1.0

11. PERSONNEL – SUPPORT**A. Resignation**

1. Name: Jameson Parker
Position: Maintenance Mechanic
Effective: December 31, 2020
Reason: Personal

B. Appointments

1. Name: Daryl Waddell Jr.
Address: 20 Debbie Marie Court, Schenectady, NY 12309
Position: Break-In Bus Driver
Effective: December 14, 2020
Salary: \$15.80 per hour
2. Name: Morgan Chamberlain
Address: 5 Catherine Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839
Position: Clerk Typist I – Part Time (Substitute)
Effective: January 6, 2021
Salary: \$13.75 per hour